

History of Disability Commission Initiatives

**James A. Rothrock, Commissioner
Department of Rehabilitative Services
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In the beginning...1983-84

- ❑ DRS Study Group, 1983-84
- ❑ **1983:** DRS Commissioner Al Dickerson established study group that included VA Head Injury Foundation
- ❑ Study group to develop strategies to expand services to “persons disabled because of head trauma”
- ❑ **1984:** DRS Study Group submitted a “Report to the DRS Commissioner on the Expansion of Rehabilitation Services to the Head Trauma Population in Virginia”

In the beginning...1983-84

❑ Recommendations of DRS Study Group

➤ DRS:

- take the lead role in *service coordination* efforts for brain injury population but DRS cannot be primary *service provider* (lack of authority, resources)
- establish a DRS “head injury services coordinator” position
- establish an interagency task force to coordinate multiple state services / agencies
- initiate a public awareness program regarding head injury prevention and assistance

In the beginning...1983-84

❑ **Recommendations of DRS Study Group** (cont'd)

➤ **DRS:**

- expand WWRC Head Trauma Program
- establish model community-based vocational rehabilitation services pilot project in Northern Virginia

➤ **General Recommendations:**

- establish a Governor's Task Force on Head Injury
- establish a state Medical/Social Health Registry that could provide uniform health data from all hospitals

In the beginning...1983-84

□ **1984:** Central registry established in Code of Virginia:

“The [DRS] Commissioner shall establish and maintain a central registry of persons who sustain spinal cord injury other than through disease...and persons who sustain head injuries...”

In the beginning...1985-86

- **1985:** *"Report to Secretary Fisher on Head Injury in Virginia"* prepared by the Task Force on Head Injury
 - "Virginia should establish a permanent entity with legislative / executive authorization to promote and oversee the development of a comprehensive, coordinated system of appropriate programs and services for head injured persons...advisory/policy body should include...representation from state agencies, private service interests, and advocacy organizations. This body will continue the work and advance the recommendations of the Head Injury Task Force." (*Section III. Head Injury: Nature of the Problem, G. Recommendations, p. 25*)

In the beginning...1985-86

- ❑ **1986:** The Virginia Brain Injury Council was established at the direction of former Secretary Teig in 1986 (Council not in Code, not Governor appointed). Currently serves as advisory body to DRS Commissioner and other policymakers.
- ❑ Quarterly meetings
- ❑ Staff assistance provided by DRS

In the beginning...HJR 135

- ❑ 1988 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution (HJR) 135 [Marks HJR 135 and Mayer HJR 149]
- ❑ Joint Subcommittee was chaired by Del. Alan Mayer and vice-chaired by Del. “Pete” Geisen
- ❑ HJR 135 authorized a study of “The Needs of Head and Spinal Cord Injury Citizens and the Need for Research”
- ❑ HJR 135 study resulted in *House Document No. 72*

1988-89 HJR 135 (cont'd)

□ HJR 135 Joint Subcommittee asked to report on:

- Number of citizens w/BI and SCI in VA
- Number of people w/BI in long-term care facilities, mental health and correctional institutions, and out-of-state facilities
- Comprehensive needs of citizens w/BI and cost of providing care
- Long-term care needs including availability and cost of long-term care facilities
- How to fund research on assisting residents in community re-entry and increasing their independent living skills
- Long-term residential needs and long-term plan to develop residential options

□ Subcommittee held public hearings and solicited proposals to address service needs, including:

- **DRS:** regional consortium for long-term case management. Fiscal impact: \$232,500.
- **Virginia Head Injury Foundation:** expand the Virginia Head Injury Registry
- **Fairfax County:** system of community-based services for traumatic brain-injured adults in Northern VA area
- **WWRC:** serve as SCI resource center and provide a coordinated system of care

1988-89 HJR 135 (cont'd)

- ❑ 1989 Report of HJR 135 Joint Subcommittee (*House Document No. 72*) recommended:
 - Designate DRS in statute as lead agency for rehabilitative services to individuals with central nervous system disabilities
 - Establish Long-Term Rehabilitative Case Management System
 - Expand Head Injury Registry
 - Continue HJR 135 Joint Subcommittee until 1990

1988-89 HJR 135 (cont'd)

- 1989 Report of HJR 135 Joint Subcommittee (*House Document No. 72*) concluded:
 - ❖ “The Joint Subcommittee believes that the proposed case management system is the mechanism by which to meet the needs of all persons who are functionally disabled [*by central nervous system injuries and disorders*]...
 - ❖ “The case management system will provide a point of entry for and continuity of services...”

1990 HJR 45 “Disability Commission”

- ❑ 1990 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution (HJR) 45 [Mayer]
- ❑ established the “Commission on the Coordination of the Delivery of Services to Facilitate the Self-Sufficiency and Support of Persons with Physical and Sensory Disabilities”
- ❑ chaired by Lt. Gov. Don Beyer and known informally as the “Beyer Commission”

1994 HJR 274 “Continuation of Commission”

- ❑ 1994 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution (HJR) 274
- ❑ continued Commission until the year 2000
- ❑ designated VA Board for People with Disabilities to staff Commission
- ❑ directed Commission to annually examine progress of its legislative proposals, including study resolutions, budget amendments, and bills patroned by Commission members

1994 HJR 83 “Evaluation of Commission Initiatives”

- 1994 General Assembly session also passed House Joint Resolution (HJR) 83 [Mayer]
- requesting Secretary of the Office of Health and Human Services to evaluate progress of Commission recommendations
- pursuant to a recommendation contained in the 10-year “Plan of Action” described in the Disability Commission’s 1992 Final Report

1990 Commission's Charge

- ❑ Evaluate programs and services for persons with physical and sensory disabilities
- ❑ Develop “Plan of Action” to address the following areas:
 - Availability, accessibility, & coordination of essential services;
 - Interagency coordination in the delivery of services;
 - Regionalized service continuum in the “least restrictive environment”;

Commission's Charge (cont'd)

- ❑ Develop “Plan of Action” to address (cont'd):
 - Program, services, and resources of public agencies serving persons with physical and sensory disabilities;
 - Eligibility, waiting periods, exclusions, and benefit gaps in accident and health insurance policies;
 - Fragmentation, inadequacies, or duplications in the existing service delivery system; and
 - Accountability in an integrated system.

1990 Commission's Work Plan

- ❑ Two years to develop Final Report to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly (resulted in *House Document No. 11, 1992*) in 1992

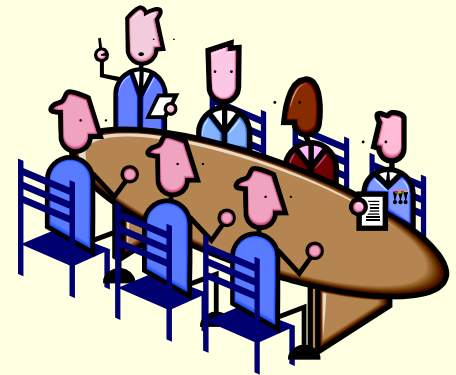
- ❑ Staffing of Commission provided by Secretary's Office and state agency personnel



Commission's Work Plan (cont'd)

☐ Commission established three subcommittees:

- Services
- Administration and Management Requirements
- Financing



☐ Staff support for subcommittees provided by state agencies

1990 Commission Subcommittees

Services Subcommittee: **Focus**

- service needs and gaps in existing system
- recommended service delivery models
- human resource requirements
- eligibility criteria for services
- research strategy for post-acute, long-term rehabilitation

Commission Subcommittees (cont'd)

Services Subcommittee: **Membership**

- 5 Commission members
- 4 consumers
- representative from hospital Trauma Center
- representative from academic research
- staffing provided by state agency personnel

Commission Subcommittees (cont'd)

Administration and Management Requirements Subcommittee: **Focus**

- state and local level administrative structure and management responsibilities;
- incentives for coordinated services;
- quality assurance / accountability mechanisms;
- client rights protections

Commission Subcommittees (cont'd)

Administration and Management Requirements Subcommittee: **Membership**

- 5 Commission members
- 3 consumers
- representative from VA Municipal League
- representative from VA Association of Counties
- staffing provided by state agency personnel

Commission Subcommittees (cont'd)

Financing Subcommittee: **Focus**

- financial incentives for optimum use of public and private fiscal resources
- coordination and cost-sharing with private sector
- insurance coverage

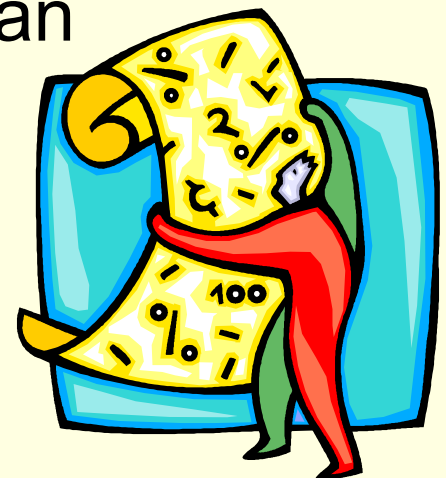
Commission Subcommittees (cont'd)

Financing Subcommittee: **Membership**

- 5 commission members
- 3 consumers
- Commissioner of Insurance
- staffing provided by state agencies

1992 Commission's Final Report

- ❑ Public hearings held around Commonwealth
- ❑ Written comments solicited through July 1991
- ❑ Commission subcommittee recommendations
- ❑ *House Document No. 11, 1992* “established a 10-year Plan of Action which formed a system of programs and services within an infrastructure designed to be consumer-focused and community-based.”



Commission-Related Legislation

□ 1992

- Enabling legislation established State Disabilities Services Council and, initially, 43 local Disability Service Boards (DSBs)
- Long Term Rehabilitation Case Management Program established in 1988, but not placed into “Code” until 1992, through legislation introduced by the Disability Commission



□ 1994

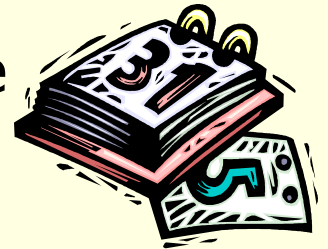
- Enabling legislation established Rehabilitation Services Incentive Fund (RSIF)

Commission-Related Legislation

(cont'd)

□ 1995

- Enabling legislation established the Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA)



□ 1996

- Directed the Department of Medical Assistance (DMAS) to develop a Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services Program

□ 2001

- Established the Specialized Transportation Council

□ 2002

- Established Housing Study Group

Today...Commission-Related Programs / Services



- ❑ **DRS** designated as lead agency to coordinate services for people with physical and sensory disabilities

- ❑ **DRS** responsible for administering state funds for programs / services resulting from Commission-related (and other) legislation or budget amendments for this population
- ❑ **Community Based Services (CBS)** is the Division within DRS that manages state-funded programs providing services to people with physical and sensory disabilities

Today...Commission-*Initiated*

Programs / Services

- ❖ **1988 Long-Term Rehabilitation Case Management Program.** Established in Code of VA in 1992. 2004 funding \$357,643, serves 400+ per year.
- ❖ **1992 Disability Services Boards (DSBs).** Established in Code of VA in 1992. 2004 funding \$520,000, supports 43 DSBs statewide.
- ❖ **1992 Rehabilitation Services Incentive Fund (RSIF).** Established in Code of VA in 1992. 2004 funding \$212,500, provides staff support and services; total of 938 individuals received services since inception. Funding allocated to each DSB based on formula.
- ❖ **1993 Centers for Independent Living (CILs).** ECI in Norfolk first CIL in 1981. 2004 funding \$4,414,221, supports 16 CILs, 2 satellites, and services to 7,700+ per year. (6 CILs also receive federal funds.)
- ❖ **1993 Personal Assistance Services.** Started as federal pilot project in 1990. 2004 funding \$2,598,000, serves 200+ per year.

Today...Commission-*Related*

Programs / Services (cont'd)

- ❖ **1993 Brain Injury Direct Services (BIDS) Fund** (*formerly Cognitive Rehabilitation Program*). Resulted from a Disability Commission task force to study effectiveness of cognitive rehabilitation services after proposed insurance mandate was killed in Advisory Commission on Mandated Benefits. 2004 funding is \$200,000, serving 20 people per year, providing state match for federal grant funds, and supporting VA Central Registry.
- ❖ **1994 WWRC Brain Injury Services Program**. 2004 funding \$150,000, supports staff and services for transition of individuals from WWRC to home community.
- ❖ **1994 Consumer Service Fund**. 2004 funding, fund of “last resort.”
- ❖ **1995 Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority (ATLFA)**.
- ❖ **Virginia Assistance Technology Services (VATS)**. 2004 funding is \$124,000.

Today...Commission-*Related*

Programs / Services (cont'd)

- ❖ **1987 Brain Injury Services.** Initial state general funds \$235,000 for Fairfax County to contract with a private nonprofit organization to develop a “continuum of services” for people with brain injury in Northern VA.
 - 2004 State General Funds for Brain Injury Services: \$2,088,638 supports 8 programs statewide and VA Central Registry
 - programs / services in Roanoke, Charlottesville, Northern VA, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Virginia Beach, and Eastern Shore

Today...Commission-*Related*

Programs / Services (cont'd)

- **1992 Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative (CNI) Trust Fund.**
- **1993-94 Supported Employment for People with Physical Disabilities.** In 1993 Commission requested, but did not receive, additional funding to expand this state-funded program.

Future...

